

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 187

**Introduced by Assembly Members Nakano, Cedillo, La Suer,
and Robert Pacheco**

April 3, 2002

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 187—Relative to the 60th anniversary of the fall of Bataan.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 187, as introduced, Nakano. Fall of Bataan.

This measure would recognize April 9, 2002, as the 60th anniversary of the fall of Bataan and honor the services of the Filipino-American World War II veterans now living in the State of California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers, driven
2 by a sense of honor and dignity, battled under the United States
3 Command after 1941 to preserve our liberty; and

4 WHEREAS, The vast majority of American soldiers who
5 opposed the Japanese invasion of the Philippines from December
6 1941 through March 1942 were Filipinos, who gallantly fought
7 down the length of the Bataan Peninsula, and endured unbearable
8 hardships during the siege of Corregidor; and

9 WHEREAS, The surrender of American and Filipino troops by
10 General King on April 9, 1942, on the Bataan Peninsula led to the
11 infamous Bataan death march; and

12 WHEREAS, April 9, 1942, is remembered in the world and in
13 United States history as the fall of Bataan in the Philippines where
14 90,000 troops of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East

1 fought for five months and delayed the Japanese forces timetable
2 to conquer the Pacific and finally after facing insurmountable odds
3 surrendered to the Japanese forces; and

4 WHEREAS, On June 14, 1944, President Franklin D.
5 Roosevelt paid tribute to these fighters when he said “We are ever
6 mindful of the heroic role of the Philippines and their people on
7 the present historical conflict. Theirs is the only substantial area
8 and theirs is the only substantial population under the American
9 flag to suffer a lengthy invasion by the enemy”; and

10 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 1946 limiting and
11 precluding Filipino veterans that fought in the service of the
12 United States during World War II from receiving most veterans
13 benefits that were available to them before 1946; and

14 WHEREAS, On the 60th year anniversary of the fall of Bataan,
15 there are still 13,000 Filipino-American World War II veterans
16 living in the United States, and 6,000 of them are residents of
17 California on the West Coast and 60,000 in the Philippines who are
18 still not recognized as American World War II veterans and are
19 living under deplorable conditions; and

20 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that we honor the sacrifices
21 and services of these individuals and pay tribute to the heroism of
22 the Filipino forces under the United States Armed Forces in the Far
23 East and the more than 200,000 guerrilla fighters who fought for
24 more than three years under the occupation to defend the flag of
25 the United States in its only colonial possession in Southeast Asia
26 during the Second World War; and

27 WHEREAS, On this occasion we call on our legislators in the
28 United States Congress and in the State of California to honor
29 these men and women who served and fought for the United States
30 by supporting the Filipino Veterans Equity Bill (HR 491 in the
31 House of Representatives and SB 1042 in the Senate) that will
32 remedy their lack of status and recognize them as United States
33 World War II veterans; and

34 WHEREAS, We remember the 60th anniversary of the fall of
35 Bataan, April 9, 2002, and we honor, as well as recognize, the
36 services of the 200,000 Filipino and American soldiers who fought
37 for democracy to defeat the overwhelming invading forces in Asia
38 and the Pacific; now, therefore, be it



Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

Text — Pages 1 and 2.